

**Cathedral Church of All Saints  
Halifax, Nova Scotia**



“On this most holy night...”

**The Easter Vigil  
Holy Saturday  
April 4, 2026**

## THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

*Presiders:* The Right Reverend Sandra Fyfe

The Very Reverend Paul Smith

*Preacher:* The Reverend Doctor Kate Heichler

*Deacon:* The Reverend Ray Carter, TSSF

*Organist and Choir Director:* Paul Halley

### Territorial Acknowledgement

*Presider:* We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki , the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) People first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. And, we recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

*The Service begins at the front entrance of the Church*

### THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

*The presider greets the people in these or similar words.*

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection

by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries;

we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

Loving God, we share in the light of your glory  
through your Son, the light of the world.

Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope.

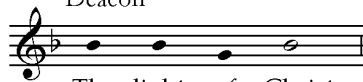
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration  
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Procession into the Cathedral


*The Deacon lifts high the Paschal Candle and proclaims, at three intervals*

Deacon



The light of Christ.

People



Thanks be to God.

## The Exsultet (Text can be found in BAS, pages 323-4)

*The Deacon, or one appointed, sings: "Rejoice, heavenly powers!..."*

*After the words "...echoing the mighty song of all God's people!"*

Celebrant:



The Lord be with you.

Congregation:



And al - so with you.

Celebrant:



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.


Congregation:



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*After the concluding words "...your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever." all respond*

People



A - men.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**The First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-2: 2

*The congregation is invited respond to:*

**“God looked at what God had made...”**

with **“And God saw that it was good.”**

**Psalm 36 : 5-10**

TONE II.1

5 Thy mercy, O Lord, reacheth unto the heavens,  
and thy faithfulness unto the clouds.

6 Thy righteousness standeth like the strong mountains:  
thy judgements are like the great deep.

7 Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast;  
how excellent is thy mercy, O God!

and the children of men shall put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of thy house;  
and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures, as out of the river.

9 For with thee is the well of life;  
and in thy light shall we see light.

10 O continue forth thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee,  
and thy righteousness unto them that are true of heart.

### **Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God,

**you created all things in wonderful beauty and order.**

**Help us now to perceive**

**how still more wonderful is the new creation,**

**by which in the fullness of time**

**you redeemed your people**

**through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ,**

**who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen**

**The Second Reading:** Exodus 14: 10 – 15: 1

## The Song of Moses

P. Halley

(Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18)

*Based on a traditional Catalan melody*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.  
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*  
the Lord has become my Saviour.  
This is my God and I will praise him, \*  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.  
The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*  
Yahweh is his Name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*  
the finest of those who bear armour have been drowned in the Red Sea.  
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*  
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.  
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*  
who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown,  
and worker of wonders?  
You stretched forth your right hand; \*  
the earth swallowed them up.  
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*  
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.  
You will bring them in and plant them \*  
on the mount of your possession,  
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.  
The Lord shall reign \* for ever and for ever.

## Prayer

God of steadfast love,  
**your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day.**  
**By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered**  
**your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh,**  
**to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations**  
**by the water of baptism.**

**Grant that all the peoples of the earth  
may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham,  
and rejoice in the inheritance of your chosen people.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**The Third Reading: Isaiah 55:1-12**

**The First Song of Isaiah**

TONE III.2

1 Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
2 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence,  
and he will be my Saviour.  
3 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.  
4 And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;  
5 Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that his name is exalted.  
6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.  
7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

**Prayer**

Living God,  
**by the Passover of your Son  
you have brought us out of sin into righteousness,  
and out of death into life.**  
**Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit  
the will and power to proclaim you to all the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**The Fourth Reading: Ezekiel 36:24-28**

## Psalm 126

Chant by G. Garrett

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Sion,  
then were we like unto them that dream.  
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with joy.  
3 Then said they among the nations,  
'The Lord hath done great things for them.'  
4 Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already;  
whereof we rejoice.  
5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
as the rivers in the South.  
6 They that sow in tears  
shall reap in joy.  
7 He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth his seed,  
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

## Prayer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,  
**look favourably on your whole Church,**  
**that wonderful and sacred mystery.**  
**By the effectual working of your providence,**  
**carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation.**  
**Let the whole world see and know**  
**that things which were cast down are being raised up,**  
**and things which had grown old are being made new,**  
**and that all things are being brought to their perfection**  
**by him through whom all things were made,**  
**your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**A Reading from the New Testament: Romans 6:3-11**



## **The Easter Acclamation** *(three times)*

*As the lights come on, all stand, as able, and ring bells*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People*

**The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

## **Collect of the Day**

*Presider*

Eternal Giver of life and light,  
this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ.  
Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism,  
that we may worship you in sincerity and truth,  
and shine as a light in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **The Easter Anthem** *Christ Our Passover*

P. Halley

Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:  
therefore let us keep the feast;  
Not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness;  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more;  
death hath no more dominion over him.  
For in that he died, he died unto sin once:  
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.  
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin,  
but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Christ is risen from the dead,  
and become the first-fruits of them that slept.  
For since by man came death,  
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!

**Sermon**

*The Reverend Doctor Kate Heichler*

## RENEWAL OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

## Presentation and Examination of Confirmands

*The presenters say to the bishop for each candidate,*

I present N. for confirmation.

*The bishop asks those who have been presented to renew their baptismal*

*commitment.* We welcome you as you come to profess your faith.

At your baptism you were made a disciple of Christ, and we signed you with the cross. Come now to receive the laying on of hands with prayer, to strengthen you for the work of God's kingdom.

*Bishop* The Christian life means turning from evil and turning to Christ.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Candidates* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Saviour and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the bishop addresses the congregation, saying,*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* **We will!**

*Bishop* Praise to God who has given us life.

*People* **Blessed be God for the gift of love.**

*Bishop* Praise to God who forgives our sin.

*People* **Blessed be God who sets us free.**

*Bishop* Praise to God who kindles our faith.

*People* **Blessed be God, our strength, our hope.**

*Bishop* Let us join with those who commit themselves anew to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

*Presider* Do you all reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* **I do.**

*Presider* What is your faith?

*People* **I believe and trust in God the Creator,  
maker and sustainer of all things;  
and in God the Son,  
my Saviour Jesus Christ;  
and in God the Holy Spirit,  
giver of life and truth.**

*Presider* This is the faith of the Church.

*People* **This is our faith.**

*Presider* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Presider* Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

## **Prayers**

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death; in your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth; in your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church; in your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love; in your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory; in your mercy,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence may be kept. Then the bishop says,*

God of mercy and love,  
new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift,  
a gift that none can take away;  
grant that your servants may grow  
into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Fill them with the joy of your presence.  
Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit:  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of love, patience and gentleness,  
the spirit of wonder and true holiness.

*People* **Amen.**

## For Confirmation

*The bishop lays his/her hand upon each one and says,*

Strengthen, Come, Creator Spirit, rekindle in *N.* your gifts  
of grace, to love and serve as a disciple of Christ. Guide, protect,  
uphold him that he may continue yours forever.

*People:* **Amen!**

Renew *N.* in their life in Christ and bring to completion  
all that your calling has begun.

*People:* **Amen!**

Living God, sustain all your people to be hope and strength to the  
world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom with you and the  
Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever.

*People:* **Amen!**

## The Blessing of the Water

*Water is poured into the Font. The presider blesses the water.*

*Bishop*            The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Bishop*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*            **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The bishop says*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.  
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.  
Through water you led the Hebrew people out of their bondage

in Egypt into the land of promise.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith. We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

*All*                    **Amen.**

*Bishop*

God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Asperging**

*The Bishop and Confirmands sprinkle the people with holy water as we sing*

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus. 374 (vv. 1,3,4)

HYFRYDOL

## The Peace

*All stand, as able, and the celebrant addresses the people.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

And also with you.

## Preparation Hymn

210

Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son

MACCABEUS

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### The Prayer over the Gifts

*When the altar has been prepared,*

*All*

**Light of all creation,  
may the radiance of this night  
fill us with the Spirit of love  
and unite us in faith,  
so that we may bear witness to the resurrection  
and show forth your glory to all the world;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, the risen Lord,  
our light and our salvation. Amen.**

*FWM Proposed Prayers alt.*

### Eucharistic Prayer 3

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you.      And also with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts.      We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Presider* Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
we give you thanks and praise for the glorious  
resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
for he is the true paschal lamb  
who has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again  
he has won for us eternal life.  
Therefore, joining our voices  
with the whole company of heaven,  
we sing our joyful hymn of praise  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Sanctus**      The Communion Service in C      J. Ireland (1879-1962)  
  
Holy Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:  
Hosanna in the highest.

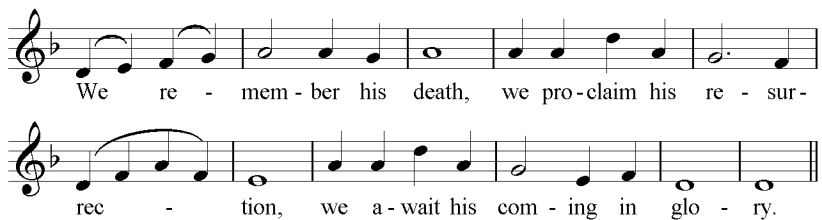
*Presider* We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation;  
in calling the Hebrews to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
and above all in the Word made flesh,  
Jesus your Son.  
  
For in these last days you sent him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.  
In him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.  
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,  
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;  
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them,  
and said, "Drink this, all of you:  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

*All*



*Presider*

and we offer our sacrifice of  
praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.  
We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they may be the sacrament  
of the body of Christ  
and his blood of the new covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,  
that we, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ,  
and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty God,  
now and for ever. AMEN!

*All*



*Presider*

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*All*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**



## The Breaking of the Bread

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution*

*Presider* Lord we died with you on the cross

*All* **Now we are raised to new life.**

*Presider* We were buried in your tomb.

*All* **Now we share in your resurrection.**

*Presider* Live in us, that we may live in you.

*All are invited to come forward to the center aisle to receive the bread, or a blessing.  
(Gluten-free bread is available from the server).*

*We also administer the wine of the Eucharist. If you wish to receive, please take a cup from the table; you may leave the cup in the tray as you return to your seat.*

## Agnus Dei The Communion Service in C

J. Ireland

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

## Communion Hymn

225

Come Away to the Skies

MIDDLEBURY

## Communion Anthem Most Glorious Lord of Life

W. H. Harris (1883-1973)

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day  
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin,  
And having harrowed hell, didst bring away  
Captivity thence captive, us to win.  
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,  
And grant that we may for whom thou didst die,  
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,  
May live forever in felicity.

And that thy love we weighing worthily,  
May likewise love thee for the same again;  
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,  
With love may one another entertain.

So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;  
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Words: Edmund Spenser (1552-99)

## Prayer after Communion

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Life-giving God,  
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection  
you send light to conquer darkness,  
water to give new life,  
and the bread of life to nourish your people.  
Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,  
so that we may show your glory to all the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.*

*Then the following doxology may be said.*

*Presider* Glory to God,

*All* **whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Blessing** *Presider*

## Closing Hymn

203

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

**Dismissal** *Deacon*

**Postlude** Litanies

J. Alain (1911-40)